

son and from year to year unless depredations or other disturbances occur.

Nest boxes placed at a distance from human habitations are more successful than those nearby. Bluebirds are easily disturbed by activities around a home and unlike some species, seldom adapt themselves to noises and movements of a household. Both male and female carry material into the box. Incubation and brooding in all nests is by the female; feeding and caring for the young by both parents. Incubation period usually is 13 to 14 days but occasionally extended to 16 days after laying of the last egg of the set. Young may leave on the fourteenth day after hatching but usually on the sixteenth.

In 1939 Bluebirds used 53 of the 56 available boxes in Percy Warner Park, laying 576 eggs (133 sets), an average of 4.3 per set. From these there matured 290 nestlings, or 50.3 per cent of the number of eggs laid.

LITERATURE CITED

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1939 A Study of Nesting Eastern Bluebirds. *Bird-Banding*, 10: 23-32.

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1934 Bluebird Studies on Cape Cod. *Bird-Banding*, 5: 39-41.

MUSSELMAN, T. E.

1935 Three Years of Eastern Bluebird Banding and Study. *Bird-Banding*, 6: 117-125.

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GRAYBAR LANE, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

TEXAS BIRD ADVENTURES IN THE CHISOS MOUNTAINS AND ON THE NORTHERN PLAINS. By Herbert Brandt. Bird Research Foundation, 11945 Carlton Road, Cleveland, O., 1940: 5¾ x 8½ in., xi + 192 pp., 16 pls. \$3.00.

This is a highly colored account of an excursion which the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission licensed as a scientific expedition. The book is marred by much repetition, by many examples of the pathetic fallacy, and by numerous anthropomorphisms—all expressed in a strangely stilted phraseology. Most of the "discoveries" of which we are told have been published by others in the dozen scientific papers concerning the birds of the region which appeared between 1902 and 1937.

In the field (even if not in this book) the author's romantic imaginings seem to have been contagious. The morning of their start into the mountains "the horses themselves seemed to reflect our human excitement" (p. 55), and by the fourth night even their "soft-spoken rancher guide" on retiring "placed his .45 six-shooter and .30-30 carbine beside his blankets, so that they could be easily reached if necessary in the night." (p. 103).

In addition to several interesting photographs, there are eleven illustrations by George M. Sutton. Two of the Sutton pictures are pen-and-ink drawings done especially for this book and the others are black and white reproductions of water-color portraits of birds made in the field in the Chisos Mountain region in 1935. In spite of the loss of the color which made the originals so charming, these bird portraits remain very effective interpretations of these species and assure the book a permanent worth.—J. VAN TYNE.